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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/828,395

Examiner

Jeffrey D. Popham

Applicant(s)

DAVIS ET AL.

Art Unit

2137

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 4/20/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 06 April 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 07302001
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20050608
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



**ANDREW CALDWELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Anthony Barkume on 6/20/2005.

Please amend the claims as follows:

D CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) An access control security system comprising:
 - a) a control panel;
 - b) a plurality of access control groups, each access control group interconnected to the control panel on an independent multi-wire data bus, each access control group comprising:
 - an access interface unit comprising:
 - data output means for transmitting data onto the data bus to the control panel,
 - data input means for receiving data via the data bus from the control panel,
 - processing means, interoperating with the data output means and the data input means, for operating data transfers over the data bus, the processing means adapted to generate a data message for transmission onto the data bus via the data output means, the data message comprising a Wiegand message field in accordance with the Wiegand protocol;
- wherein at least one of said access interface units is further adapted to implement an extended data field along with the Wiegand message field, and
- wherein the control panel is adapted to communicate with each access interface unit to determine ~~of~~ if the access interface unit is capable of implementing the extended data field, and
- if the control panel determines that the access interface unit is not capable of implementing the extended data field, then the control panel communicates with that access interface unit in accordance with only the Wiegand protocol, and
- if the control panel determines that the access interface unit is capable of implementing the extended data field, then the control panel communicates with that access interface unit in accordance with the Wiegand protocol and the extended data field.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the extended data field comprises a status information field indicative of a status condition of the access interface unit.
3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the access interface unit further comprises user ID reading means for reading an ID device.
4. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein the ID reading means is configured to read an access control card.
5. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein the ID reading means is configured to read a data transponder.
6. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein the ID reading means is configured to read a data-carrying key fob.
7. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein the ID reading means is configured to read biometric data from a user.
8. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein the processing means interoperates with the ID reading means, and wherein the extended data field further comprises an information field indicative of a property of an ID read by the ID reading means.
9. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein at least one access control group comprises a plurality of access interface units, and wherein the extended data field comprises address information uniquely identifying each access interface unit in an access control group.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the processing means is further adapted to utilize an error detection algorithm as a function of data contained within the extended data field.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the error detection algorithm is a cyclic redundancy check (CRC), and wherein the extended data field is appended with the CRC.

12. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the access interface unit further comprises user input means for accepting user input functions, and wherein the status condition of the access interface unit indicates a function input by a user via the user input means.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein the input means comprises at least one pushbutton.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the function of the pushbutton is a door bell function.

15. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the access interface unit comprises external status input means for accepting external status data from an external device coupled thereto, and wherein the status information field of the extended data field comprises the external status data.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15 wherein the external device is adapted to measure temperature, and wherein the external status data comprises the measured temperature.

17. (Original) The system of claim 15 wherein the external device is adapted to detect a change in light incident thereon, and wherein the external status data comprises data indicative of a change in light.

18. (Original) The system of claim 15 wherein the external device is adapted to detect physical tampering with the access interface unit, and wherein the external status data comprises an tamper indication.

19. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the processing means is further adapted to generate supervision data on a periodic basis, and wherein the status information field comprises the supervision data.

20. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the processing means is further adapted to detect a malfunction of the access interface unit, and wherein the status information field comprises data indicative of a malfunction.

21. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein data transfers are made to the control panel using the electrical and information content of the Wiegand protocol via the Data "0" and Data "1" output signals.

22. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein data transfers are made by the control panel using the electrical characteristics of the Wiegand protocol via the LEDCTL input signal as a serial protocol.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Renner et al. (U.S. Patent 5,679,945) discloses an access control system comprising a control panel and a plurality of access control groups, each access control group interconnected to the control panel on an independent multi-wire data bus, each access control group comprising an access interface unit comprising data output means for transmitting data onto the data bus to the control panel, data input means for receiving data via the data bus from the control panel, processing means, interoperating with the data output means and the data input means, for operating data transfers over the data bus, the processing means adapted to generate a data message for transmission onto the data bus via the data output means, the data message comprising a Wiegand message field in accordance with the Wiegand protocol. Renner is a generic Wiegand access control system that allows for other types of interface units (magnetic stripe readers, bar code readers, etc.) to be connected to the control panel and communicate with it in order to authenticate access.

Schneider et al. (U.S. Patent 6,715,674), being the closest prior art, discloses providing an extended data field in a Wiegand system and forcing a user to authenticate through multiple means (token and biometrics) in order to gain access, allowing the system to use different messages than those used in ordinary Wiegand systems, but does not disclose that the control panel determines whether the access interface unit is capable of implementing the extended data field and communicating with the access interface unit using either the Wiegand protocol with the extended data field or using only the Wiegand protocol based on this determination.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey D. Popham whose telephone number is (571)-272-7215. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on (571)272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



ANDREW CALDWELL
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